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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Note verbale dated 3 October 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and would be grateful if the "Declaration issued at the first meeting of the Central American and Caribbean Groups for Solidarity with Argentina on the Question of the Malvinas held in Havana on 13 September 2013", a copy of which is transmitted herewith (see annex), could be issued as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 44 concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 3 October 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration of Central American and Caribbean Groups for Solidarity with Argentina on the Question of the Malvinas

The Malvinas Solidarity Groups of the Central American and Caribbean countries met for the first time on 12 and 13 September 2013 in Havana, Republic of Cuba. On that occasion, and on behalf of the Solidarity Groups established in our countries Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama and Trinidad and Tobago, we the participants make the following declaration:

- We affirm that the question of the Malvinas Islands is a matter of high priority for all of the countries of Central America and the Caribbean here represented.
- We reiterate that the question of the Malvinas Islands is a matter of sovereignty. It is not the concern solely of the Argentine Republic, but also of the Latin American and Caribbean region as a whole, whose own sovereignty has been endangered on numerous occasions. It can in no event be seen as an isolated question of decolonization.
- We reaffirm our strong support for the legitimate sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, which constitute an inseparable part of that fraternal Latin American country.
- We stress that, 180 years after unlawfully occupying the Malvinas Islands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island should, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), accept and reopen sovereignty negotiations with the Argentine Republic.
- We express our concern at the United Kingdom's illegal exploration and exploitation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources on the Argentine continental shelf. Those activities contravene General Assembly resolution 31/49, which calls upon the two parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the islands are going through the process recommended by the General Assembly.
- We condemn the growing militarization of the disputed area by the United Kingdom, something that is a cause of concern for the countries of the region.
- We appreciate the recent statements made by intergovernmental forums of the region concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.
- We emphasize that the policy of our States reflects the opinion of civil society in the countries of Central America and the Caribbean here represented. That position consists of firm support for the Argentine position in favour of a peaceful and negotiated solution to the sovereignty dispute with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island concerning the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

- We thank the Government of Cuba for its firm and energetic position on the question of the Malvinas Islands and for the actions taken by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla who, in March 2013, accompanied the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Argentina, Héctor Timmerman, in his meetings with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, and the Chair and members of the Special Committee on decolonization. On that occasion, Cuba spoke on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), expressing the region's support for the rights of Argentina over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, in accordance with the communiqué adopted by the Summit of CELAC on 28 January 2013.

- We reaffirm the key objectives for which the Solidarity Groups were founded.

We hereby decide:

(i) To disseminate the principles underlying the legitimate, inalienable and imprescriptible sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas;

(ii) To encourage the creation or establishment of open lectures at public and private universities to study and raise awareness of the question of the Malvinas Islands, their decolonization and the transfer of sovereignty over the territories of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas; to make use of modern information and communication technologies, social networking sites and e-mail, and to create Internet sites on the topic, in order to facilitate interaction among members of the Groups, foster interest among younger persons and ensure continuity from one generation to the next;

(iii) To take actions contributing to the resumption of sovereignty negotiations in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and other resolutions on the question of the Malvinas Islands, in support of continued dialogue in the Special Committee on decolonization, as was proposed at the meeting concerning resolution 2065 (XX) that was held in June 2013;

(iv) To press ahead with a range of actions bolstering the solidarity of Central American and Caribbean countries with the Argentine cause, including new initiatives in pursuit of the aforementioned objectives;

(v) To thank the Republic of Cuba and the members of the country's Solidarity Group for their hospitality, generosity and friendship.